

From: Stephen Ingram
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/5/01 11:43pm
Subject: Hi, this is from a link on the RedHat site (www.redhat.com)

Hi there,

According to the RedHat site, the Justice Department is collecting opinions via email about the antitrust settlement.

I guess my first disclaimer is that I am a Linux user and pretty much use that OS exclusively.

My belief is that Microsoft are guilty of suppressing competition, but, whilst this does not excuse them, any multi-national company would do that in a heart-beat, if they felt they could get away with it.

That said, I believe the settlement is a win for Microsoft.

If I were Bill Gates, with \$36 billion in cash, XP and Xbox just released, I'd find it pretty difficult to think things went badly in the settlement and for Microsoft.

Microsoft offer their \$1.x Billion for schools and even that has them using the situation for a multi-million dollar write-off.

The worst aspect of the settlement is that if this is as bad as it gets for Microsoft then what do the Justice Department do next?

Its over for you guys, but you guys were right!

Microsoft walk away and just get smarter next time.

Hey, they caught up with the Internet (finally) and now have *easy* global reach. They achieved what they needed to do and if it cost them a couple of billion dollars, well, that was just an R&D project for them.

What is the current expected return on \$36 billion?

\$3 billion -> \$4 billion dollars a *year*?

They won and don't believe Bill Gates doesn't think it too.

He's laughing all the way to the bank.

This is the only time you'll get an offer like this out of Microsoft and they are low-balling so much, its embarrassing.

How much does the US government itself, across all its organizations pump into Microsoft each year?

Not only did Microsoft win, we are *paying* them for that privilege too!

If all our government organizations switched to Open Source, you'd have more tax dollars to help the poor schools that Microsoft are claiming to want to do.

Not just one time, but forever!

Now *that's* what I'd call Justice!

Thanks for your time,

Regards

Stephen Ingram